

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 2000-234

MAY 16, 2000

ANDOVER WATER DISTRICT  
Proposed Rate Change

ORDER

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WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

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## **SUMMARY OF ORDER**

We approve the Andover Water District's (District) revised rate sheets filed on May 12, 2000. These rates result in a \$26,098 or 45.71% increase over 1999 actual revenues of \$57,090. The bills for most residential customers will increase approximately 53%, while the charges for public fire protection service will increase 31.37%.

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 9, 2000, the Andover Water District filed with the Commission its request to increase water rates on July 1, 2000. The request was to increase rates by \$31,285 or 54.80% over 1999 actual revenues. The District mailed the required notice to each of its customers. The rate increase is necessary as a result of increased operating expenses, depreciation on recent property additions, and a decline in operating revenues at existing rates.

On March 28, 2000, the Commission Advisory Staff issued Bench Data Request No. 1. The District responded on April 3, 2000. After further review of the District's filing and response to the Data Request, the Bench identified areas of concern with the rate filing. The District addressed the Bench's concerns by filing revisions to its exhibits and proposed rate sheets on May 3, 2000. The revised annual operating revenue is \$83,188, resulting in a \$26,098 (45.71%) increase over 1999 actual revenues.

The Public Advocate filed a Petition to Intervene on April 5, 2000. William Black, General Counsel, indicated, during a May 9, 2000 telephone conversation with Raymond Hammond, that the Public Advocate had no objection to the revised filing.

## **DECISION**

We have reviewed the District's original filing, its responses to data requests and the revised filing. We find that the rates proposed by Andover Water District in its revised filing reasonably provide the revenue necessary for the District to meet its obligations and continue to operate the water system.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

1. That the Andover Water District Schedule of Rates, consisting of Sheet 1 - 4<sup>th</sup> Revision, Sheet 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision, and Sheet 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision, all Second Drafts, filed on May 12, 2000 is approved to become effective for service rendered on and after July 1, 2000; and

2. That the Andover Water District Schedule of Rates, consisting of Sheet 1 – 4<sup>th</sup> Revision and Sheets 2 through 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Revisions, filed on March 9, 2000, shall not become effective.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: WELCH  
NUGENT  
DIAMOND

### NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of adjudicatory proceedings are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 6(N) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.11) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which consideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.